



King of the Cross

Week of September 12, 2021

Here Is Our King • Matthew 27:1-54 • Message 29

On Sunday, I started my message with this sentence:

**If I follow Jesus, I must respond to my world
the way he responded to his. (WWJD).**

Based on all that we have seen about Jesus so far in our study of Matthew, how do you think Jesus would respond to our current world? How do you think he would he talk about our current situations?

King of the Cross: Matthew 27:11-54

Read **Matthew 27:11-31**. Based on this story, how would you describe Jesus?

On Sunday, I said the only one in this story with any true authority is Jesus and that therefore, it's wrong to think of him as a victim. What do you think of that?

Read **Matthew 27:45-50**. It is a longstanding Christian tradition that the Father "turned his face away" from Jesus at this moment. However, on Sunday, I spoke against that tradition by claiming that Jesus was quoting Psalm 22. If you have time in your group, read **Psalm 22** and talk through the meaning of that Psalm, before continuing.

What difference does it make if the Father turned his back on Jesus or not?

Take it Home

While hanging on the cross, Jesus quotes Psalm 22 not as an expression of abandonment or desperation, but as a vow of faith in the presence of the Father and the ultimate unfolding of his plan. What does that teach you about how we should deal with our own hardships?

Read **Matthew 27:51**. Matthew recorded this event because we needed to know the difference made by Jesus' sacrifice. His death opened up the possibility of relationship with God. Has that made a difference in your life?

Jesus was a willing sacrifice so that we could be reconciled to the Father, and we are supposed to take up our cross and follow him. Can you think of ways **our sacrifice** can lead to **others** being reconciled to God?



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